Harassment of ethnic minorities in the USA

267. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that the FBI is harassing ethnic minorities in the USA, especially Indians who are taking part in the American political process;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any representation or are aware of harassment of the Indians in the USA;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Government have received no reports of Indian nationals being harassed in the United States by FBI for participating in the U.S. political process.

(b) and (c) There have been some media reports abour U.S. citizens of Indian origin having been questioned by local authorities in this regard. It is also learnt that at least one of these individuals has taken up this matter through U.S. political channels. Government have not received any representation in this regard.

(d) It is the Government's clear policy to maintain correct and cordial relations with the Indian expatriate community and not interfere in the domestic political process or any way infringe U.S. domestic legal requirements.

Expulsion of Indian High Commission staff by Pakistan

268. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether Pakistan had expelled four Indian Mission Staff, recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) On January 23, 2003, the Government of Pakistan asked for the withdrawal of four officials of the High Commission of India in Islamabad allegedly on account of their involvement in activities incompatible with their official status.

On February8, 2003, the Government of Pakistan took similar measures against five more officials including the Charge d'Affaires of the Indian High Commissions in Islamabad.

(c) The allegations were totally baseless and Government rejected them completely. Pakistan's actions were also a clear and unjustified retaliation, based on an approach of compulsive hostility, to the necessary measures Government had taken in view of harassment of our officials and Cd'A in Islamabad, and the involvement of officials of Pakistan High Commission, including their Cd'A in funding of terrorist and secessionist activities directed against India.

Sharing of Indus Water

269. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to State:

(a) whether sharing of water of the Indus river between India and Pakistan is regulated by any bilateral legislation or any treaty or agreement between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the legislation or agreement, as the case may be, puts some obligations to be fulfilled by the two countries and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether it is a fact that in recent years, Pakistan is lagging behind in fulfilling its treaty obligations and if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) The Indus Waters Treaty signed between India and Pakistan in 1960 for the utilization of the waters of the Indus system of rivers, fixes and delimits the rights and obligations of each country in relation to the other concerning the use of these waters.